

Silvi Väljal

# YUSSIKE'S SEVEN FRIENDS







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## ONCE UPON A TIME

Little Yussike loved Sunday. It was a wonderful time for playing all day long with never a worry or care. Yussike wished it would always be Sunday, and so he decided to go to Sunday Land and ask that his wish be granted.

Yussike thought all the days of the week lived beyond the woods where the sun went down every evening. After all, didn't the sun always bring in a new day when he awoke in the morning! Yussike decided to follow the sun.

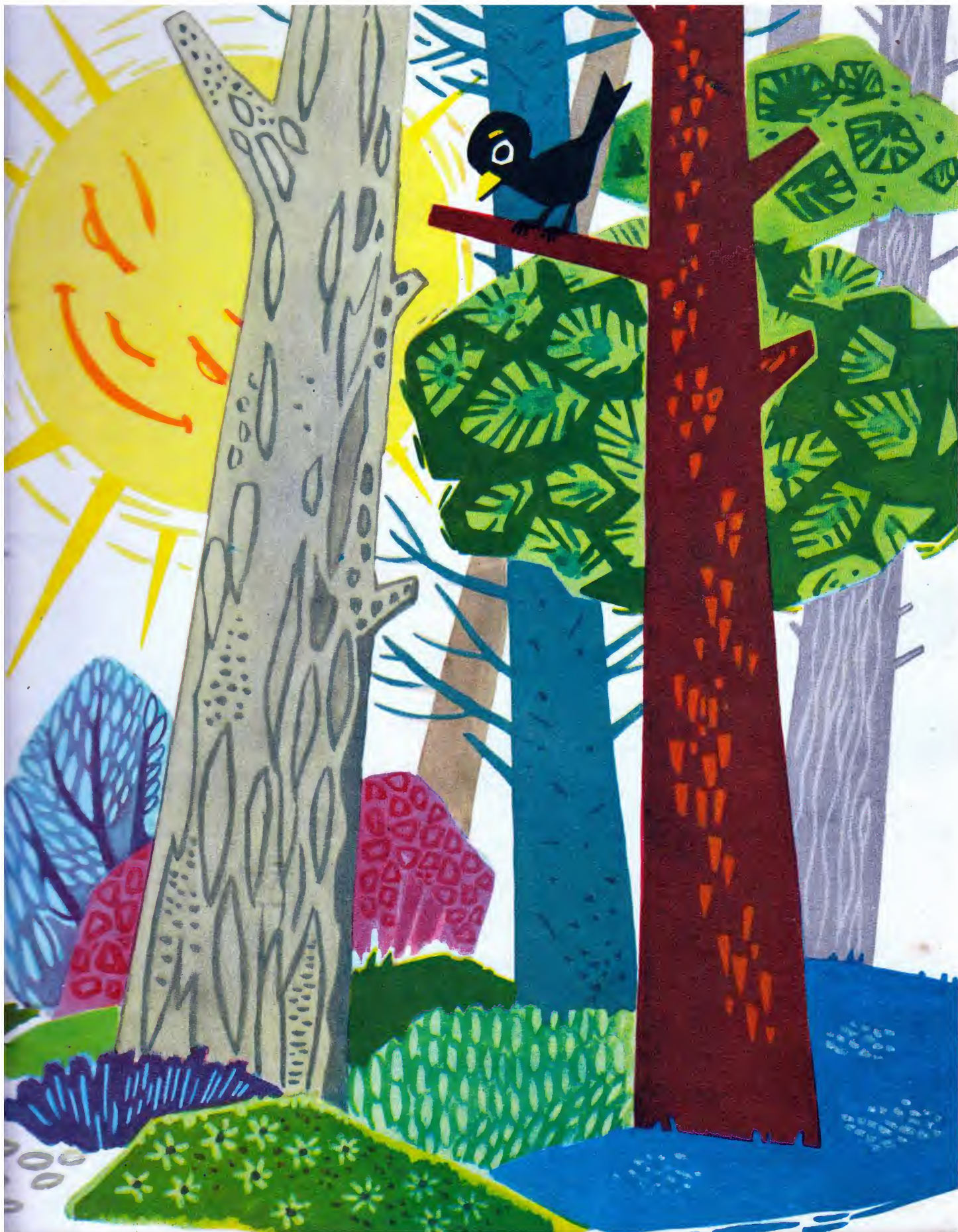





He walked on and on until he came to the middle of a dark forest. He could no longer see the sun. He began running to catch up with it, but there was no end to the trees. He did not discover where the sun went down that day.












After a while Yussike came to a big anthill. The ants were busy covering up all the entrances, because that is what they do when the sun goes down and it starts getting dark.

"Can any of you tell me where Sunday Land is?" Yussike asked.

"We've known every path in the forest but we never saw it," the ants replied. "Why don't you ask Titmouse? Maybe she knows."





Yussike found the tree in which Titmouse had her nest. She was singing her babies to sleep.

"Dear Titmouse, can you tell me where Sunday Land is?" he said.

"No," Titmouse replied. "I fly hither and yon all day long, looking for insects for my babies, but I never once saw Sunday Land. Do you think Owl might know? He lives in the big oak tree, and he's very wise. He knows everything. He can even see at night."







Yussike went to the oak tree.  
“Wise Owl, can you tell me  
where Sunday Land is?”

Owl had been sleeping all  
day and had just gotten up,  
since it was becoming dark.  
“It’s a long way to Sunday Land  
from here. But you keep on  
going and don’t be afraid. You’ll  
soon come to Monday Land.  
Monday is a friendly, hard-  
working fellow. He’ll show you  
the way.”











Yussike went on until he reached Monday Land.

"Hello, Monday," he said. "Can you show me which way to go to Sunday Land?"

"Why, hello, Yussike! It's a six-day journey to Sunday Land from here. I'll show you the way if you help me stack the hay."

Yussike said he would. They worked on all through the day. By evening they had made many piles of sweet-smelling hay. Monday praised Yussike for doing such a good job and told him how to reach Tuesday.







Yussike got there just as Tuesday was about to leave. "Hello, Tuesday. Can you tell me how to reach Sunday Land?"

"It's a five-day journey from here. I can show you the way, but I'd like you to help me first. We're building a new kindergarten."

They worked hard all day. Finally, the new building was finished. Then Tuesday told Yussike how to reach Wednesday Land.





"Hello, Wednesday.  
Will you please tell me  
how to get to Sunday  
Land?"

Wednesday was too bu-  
sy to answer. A calf had  
bolted and was running  
wild.

At last Wednesday said,  
"Help me catch the ras-  
cal. We can talk later."





The two of them soon caught the runaway. Wednesday praised Yussike for being so quick and then said, "It's a four-day journey to Sunday Land from here. Ask Thursday. He knows the way better than I do."









Thursday lived nearby. He was standing in the doorway just as if he were waiting for Yussike.

"Hello, Yussike," Thursday said. "I heard you were a fine boy and were always willing to help others. Will you help me, too? The garden needs to be weeded and the flowers should be watered."

Yussike didn't like the job much at first, but after the flowers began nodding their heads, as if to thank him, he decided he liked gardening after all. Thursday was very pleased at having found such a good helper. He told Yussike that Sunday Land was only three days away and showed him which way to go.







Soon Yussike reached Friday. This was Friday's big wash day. Yussike had always liked washing machines. He didn't even wait for Friday to ask him to help, but pitched right in.

Friday told him it was a two-day journey to Sunday Land.












A colorful illustration of a young girl and a young boy walking hand-in-hand on a grey path. The girl, on the left, has brown hair and is wearing a traditional-style dress with a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark blue vest with a red and white geometric pattern, and a dark blue skirt with red and white stripes. She is also wearing a dark blue headscarf with a red pom-pom. The boy, on the right, has blonde hair and is wearing a red vest over a white long-sleeved shirt and dark blue shorts. They are both smiling and looking towards the viewer. In the background, there are three stylized trees: a tall green one on the left, a smaller green one in the middle, and a larger yellow one on the right. The ground is a mix of yellow and green patches.

When Yussike reached Saturday he saw there was a lot of work to be done here, too. "Hello, Saturday," he said. "Can you show me the way to Sunday Land?"

"It's only a day's journey from here. If you help me clean the house and carry firewood to the bath-house I'll get done sooner and we can both set out together."

Yussike raced back and forth, working hard until everything shone. Then he had a bath, for it was nicer to visit Sunday Land when you were clean.





Everything was beautiful in Sunday Land, and Sunday was the most beautiful of all. Soon Sunday's guests began arriving. These were the other days of the week. Yussike knew them all. Sunday said that only someone who had worked well all week would be happy in Sunday Land. All the other days then said they would never have done such a good job if not for Yussike.

Yussike was pleased to hear them say this. Then they all began to dance. He even forgot to ask Sunday to come around every day, for now all the days were his friends.







Translated by *Fainna Solasko*  
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**С. Вяльял**  
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